

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15415 032243Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----014202 032246Z /61

R 030825Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3839

S E C R E T MOSCOW 15415

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 15415 VICE 05415

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PSDC, UR, CASC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO

REF: STATE 167936

1. I DELIVERED YOUR LETTER TO GROMYKO AT 9:55 A.M.

MONDAY, JULY 3.

2. GROMYKO, ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO, CLEARLY HAD BEEN GIVEN ADVANCE WARNING BY DOBRYNIN OF A POSSIBLE DEMARCHE ON THE CORRESPONDENTS. AFTER GROMYKO READ THE LETTER, I ADDED THAT THIS CASE WAS CAUSING A STORM IN THE US AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE CASE COULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BOOKS. GROMYKO RESPONDED FIRMLY THAT THIS WAS "IMPOSSIBLE," THAT THE TRIAL WOULD TAKE PLACE. BUT, HE ADDED, IT COULD BE DELAYED. NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 7, IT COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 17.

3. I SAID THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT IT WOULD BE MUCH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15415 032243Z

BETTER IF THE CASE COULD BE DROPPED. I ALSO BRIEFLY EXPLAINED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CASE, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THAT PIPER AND WHITNEY THEMSELVES DID NOT SAY THAT THE TV CONFESSION OF GAMSAKHURDI WAS FAKE, THEY ONLY QUOTED SOURCES TO THIS EFFECT; AND THE STORIES DID NOT APPEAR IN THE USSR.

4. GROMYKO REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE CASE. IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE WHERE THE STORIES APPEARED. KORNIYENKO ADDED THAT PIPER AND WHITNEY HAD AFTER ALL SPREAD LIES ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION YOU DO NOT RESORT TO THIS METHOD IN THE US, HE SAID, AND WE DO NOT HERE. THIS CASE WAS PART OF A CHAIN OF EVENTS WHICH WAS SET INTO MOTION BY THE US SIDE (GROMYKO CLEARLY HAD IN MIND THE ARREST IN WOODBRIDGE OF CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER), IT IS A MATTER OF RECIPROCITY. THE SOVIET SIDE HAD "OVERLOOKED A GREAT DEAL" WITH RESPECT TO THE CONDUCT OF US CITIZENS IN THE USSR. BUT WHEN "YOU TAKE SUCH A LINE, WE ALSO MUST DO SQ. YOU SPEAK OF CONCERN, BUT WE HAVE THE SAME CONCERN EXPRESSED TO US FROM OUR PEOPLE IN NEW YORK. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REMOVE THE SOURCE OF SUCH CONCERN. THIS IS ALL VERY BAD, AS I TOLD SECRETARY VANCE."

5. I SAID I WAS SORRY GROMYKO COULD NOT DO MORE TO ALLEVIATE THIS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT WOULD RELAY HIS RESPONSE TO YOU ALONG WITH HIS OFFER TO DELAY THE PIPER-WHITNEY TRIAL UNTIL THE 17TH.

6. AS THE MEETING CONCLUDED, GROMYKO REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR LINE ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING: HE HOPED THE MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT IT ALL DEPENDED UPON THE POSITIONS OF THE US SIDE. TOON

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15415 032243Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-B, CHEROKEE 07/03/78, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW15415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780797/aaaadeig.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 3dbe7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 167936
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2122505
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO
TAGS: PSDC, CASC, UR, US, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH), (VANCE, CYRUS R), (WHITNEY, CRAIG), (PIPER, HAROLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3dbe7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014